In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A bat comprising:

a hitting surface;

a handle element attached to the hitting surface; and

a sleeve positioned within the hitting surface, wherein the hitting surface and the sleeve are comprised of composite materials;

wherein the hitting surface is made from a first set of fibers and a first resin and wherein the sleeve is made from a second set of fibers and a second resin, the second set of fibers and the second resin being different than the first set of fibers and first resin.

2. (Original) The bat of claim 1 wherein the hitting surface has a first stiffness and the sleeve positioned within the hitting surface has a second stiffness different than the first stiffness.

3. (Original) The bat of claim 1 wherein the hitting surface has a first stiffness and the sleeve positioned within the hitting surface has a second stiffness different than the first stiffness, wherein the second stiffness is approximately 3 times the stiffness of the first stiffness.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The bat of claim 1 [[4]] wherein the first set of fibers includes a tubular sock.

6. (Currently Amended) The bat of claim 1 [[4]] wherein the second fiber and resin is impregnated in the second set of fibers.

7. (Original) The bat of claim 6 wherein the second fiber and second resin is an E-glass fiber impregnated resin.

8. (Currently Amended) The bat of claim 1 [[4]] wherein the second set of fibers and resin is a sheet of material.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a bat comprising:
forming a tubular hitting surface;
forming a sleeve from composite material; and
fitting the sleeve within the tubular surface.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of fitting the sleeve within the tubular surface comprises force fitting the sleeve within the tubular hitting surface.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of forming a sleeve from composite material comprises laying up a plurality of layers of material.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein laying up a plurality of layers of material further comprises laying up a first layer of material and a second layer of material at different angles.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein laying up a plurality of layers of material further comprises laying up a first layer of material and a second layer of material at different angles, wherein the angles of laying up are varied to change the nodes of vibration within the bat.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of forming a sleeve from composite material comprises:
laying up a plurality of layers of material; and
wrapping the plurality of layers about a mandrel.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of forming a sleeve from composite material comprises:

laying up a plurality of layers of material;

wrapping the plurality of layers about a mandrel; and

wrapping tape over the plurality of layers about the mandrel.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of wrapping tape includes:

wrapping a first layer of tape to produce a release layer; and

wrapping a second layer of tape to produce a strength layer.